

Torrance, California
January 26, 1943

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Countil Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, January 26, 1943 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

All those present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag:

Deputy Clerk Hallanger called the roll those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held January 12, 1943 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held January 15, 1943 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

A communication was read from the 1943 Victory Book Campaign, requesting the cooperation of the City of Torrance in the nationwide drive to collect good books for use by the Armed Forces.

Mayor McGuire requested that the drive be given publicity through the press.

A communication was read from the Bohn Aluminum and Brass Corporation, signed by E. T. Reynolds, requesting that Mr. Pat MacDonnell, City of Torrance Housing Coordinator, be delegated by the Council to represent the City of Torrance as a member of the recently organized Torrance War Industries Committee.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mr. Pat MacDonnell, Housing Coordinator, be appointed a member of the Torrance War Industries Committee as the official representative of the City of Torrance. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Ralph Tintle, 25508 Cypress Avenue, Lomita, requesting the the Civic Auditorium be made available to draftees and their families and friends on days of Inductions, stating that the discomfort of standing outdoors in the early morning cold weather could be avoided by making the building available. She stated she had experienced the uncomfortable wait on the morning of January 19, 1943 at which time her son had been one of the contingent of draftees.

Attorney McCall stated he had called the Selective Service Board regarding this particular incident, and had learned that the local Board had no jurisdiction in this instance, but that the boys were under orders by the regular Army. He advised that the local Selective Service Board has arranged to notify the City Clerk's Office by letter, in advance of Induction dates, of the departure of draftees and thereby be assured that the Civic Auditorium will be opened.

Mayor McGuire stated that the City Clerk's Office has received notice of the next regular Induction, and that the building will be made available. He requested that Mrs. Tintle be notified to this effect.

A communication was read from F. J. Carpenter, Assistant Treasurer, The National Supply Company, requesting that the special committee which was organized early in 1942 to represent the indus-

tries located in Torrance on the subject of taxes, be given the opportunity of discussing the budget with the Council for the coming year before it is finally adopted.

Mayor McGuire stated that Mr. Carpenter can be notified that the City Council unanimously consents to cooperate fully with him and the tax committee regarding the budget, both during the formative period and when it is ready for adoption.

A communication was read from Alice O. Thomas, requesting removal of trees from the front of her property at 22401 Ocean Avenue.

Engineer Jain recommended removal of the trees, stating that they are eucalyptus, about one dozen in number, and are the only ones left on the street.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of Alice O. Thomas that trees be removed from the front of her property at 22401 Ocean Avenue be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. Rufus Page, offering to donate two pine trees to the City for firewood, the trees being located in the front lawn of his property at 1723 Arlington Avenue.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that Mr. Page had been in contact with him regarding this matter. He stated that the trees had been damaged during the recent storm and constitute a hazard to his home. He added that Mr. Page is anxious to have the trees removed and will pay for the service if necessary.

Engineer Jain stated that it had been necessary, due to labor shortage, to refuse several requests of this nature.

Councilman Powell remarked that he had observed the trees many times, noting that they constitute not only a hazard to Mr. Page's house, but to the general public using the adjacent sidewalk. He recommended removal of the trees as requested for this reason.

Street Superintendent Gascoigne stated that he understood that Street Department employees have been doing this work on their own time, being paid by the owners of the trees, and using their own equipment, consisting mainly of their automobiles and ropes.

A question arose as to whether or not the City should do the work and bill the owner, or whether Street Department workers should be allowed to continue the work on their own time and, if the latter method is agreed upon, whether or not it would be advisable to allow use of the City equipment and charge a regular rental charge upon it. Councilman Cucci cautioned that the City could assume no liability for workers doing this work on their own time.

It was suggested that Mr. Page be contacted and asked whether or not he desires the City to remove the trees, or whether he would prefer to employ Street Department employees to do it on their own time. Councilman Hitchcock stated Mr. Page has no preference as to who does the job, so long as the trees are removed.

A communication was read from Vincent Thomas, Member of Assembly, Sixty-Eight District, enclosing copy of Assembly Bill No. 120, which bill, in substance, amends the age requirement to enter a two-year Junior college. He requested the City Council to express its desire regarding this bill in order that he may either support the bill or present his objections to the Assembly when the bill appears for its passage.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Assembly Bill No. 120 be referred to the entire City Council for thorough study before action regarding it is taken. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Associated Assessment Engineers, requesting a meeting with the City Council for discussion of all the new provisions contained in the new plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors regarding the handling of tax deeded lands, and advising that all the City's existing contracts, with the exception of the last one with the County of Los Angeles, should be renegotiated.

Mayor McGuire suggested that a date in the near future, possibly next week, be arranged for a meeting with the Associated Assessment Engineers for discussion of the subject mentioned by Mr. Greig in his communication from said company.

A communication was read from General Petroleum Corporation of California, advising that no pipe line was laid under Ordinance No. 781 (N.S.) of the County of Los Angeles for the six months' period ending December 31, 1942. Matter of record.

Mayor McGuire advised that Mr. Murphy of the General Petroleum Corporation had requested him to express his company's appreciation for action taken by the City Council recently to allow the Gardena Municipal Bus Line to travel a certain route in the City of Torrance to accommodate employees of the General Petroleum Corporation.

A communication was read from W. C. Bradford, Secretary, Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that, on October 7, 1942, Mr. John E. Jeffery, Regional Director of the State, County and Municipal Workers of America (C.I.O.), together with representatives of Local No. 360, had met with the Civil Service Board and presented certain proposed amendments to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations with the request that they be adopted. A copy of the proposed amendments was enclosed for study by the Council.

It was stated that the Civil Service Board had made a careful study of the proposed amendments, finally approving certain proposed amendments at a meeting held January 15, 1943. Six copies of the proposed amendments were enclosed, with the request that they be studied, and if approved, adopted. The proposed amendments would make changes in (1) hours of work, (2) Vacations, and (3) Sick Leave.

Copies of the proposed amendments as submitted by the Civil Service Board were distributed to the Council for study. Clerk Hallanger read in full a copy of the proposed amendments as presented by the C.I.O. to the Civil Service Board.

Mr. Ward, Manager of the Bus Lines, requested that Department Heads be allowed to study the proposed amendments before adoption.

Mayor McGuire ordered Clerk Hallanger to make copies of the proposed amendments as presented by the C.I.O. to the Civil Service Board for each member of the Council.

Clerk Hallanger stated that the County of Los Angeles Public Librarian has requested to know whether or not the City of Torrance intends to contract for library service for the fiscal year 1943-44. At the request of Mayor McGuire, Clerk Hallanger read in full a communication from the Public Librarian, County of Los Angeles, pertaining to this matter.

Councilman Babcock moved that the County of Los Angeles Public Librarian be advised that it is the desire of the City Council of the City of Torrance to continue its contract for library services for the fiscal year 1943-44. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. H. Stanger, Manager Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, advising that, (in reply to a communication from the City Clerk's office in which it was suggested that a loan agreement be drawn up for use by the Rationing Board of the Water Department's steel files,) one Water Department owned steel file only, not now in the possession of the Water Department, has been loaned to the Police Department for the duration of the war.

Clerk Hallanger reported that the total cost of Municipal Improvement District No. 1 bonds, offered by the William R. Staats Company in advance of maturity date, is \$2783.11, the resultant saving in interest amounting to \$1136.89.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Clerk be authorized to purchase from the William R. Staats Company two(2) 6% interest bearing Municipal Improvement District No. 1 Bonds, Maturity Date, 1959, for a total amount of \$2783.11. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from W. H. Stanger, Manager, Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, advising that, after a thorough study of the possibilities of providing fresh vegetables for the citizens of the community through a supervised garden project, the conclusion had been reached that the plan of offering water at a reduced rate for irrigation of Victory Gardens would be the best solution to the problem. It was further suggested that the Water District be authorized to send out special notices to each domestic consumer notifying them of the special rate offered.

A sample of the notice to be sent to domestic consumers was enclosed, together with a Resolution establishing the special water rate for Victory Gardens.

A lengthy discussion ensued, Mr. Stanger participating. Councilman Powell still contended that a supervised garden project would be successful.

Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1561

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 1538, BY THE CHANGING OF DATES IN PARAGRAPH 1, AND CHANGING THE AMOUNTS IN PARAGRAPH 2 of SECTION "V", EFFECTIVE MARCH 21, 1943.

Councilman Cucci moved that Resolution No. 1561 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Hallanger presented and read in full:

RESOLUTION NO. 1562

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING ARMY AND NAVY "E" FOR LOCAL CHAPTER OF RED CROSS.

Mr. Michael Straszer of the Torrance Herald suggested that a correction be made in the resolution to change "chapter" to "branch", stating that there is a great deal of confusion in this respect.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1562 be adopted, with the change as suggested by Mr. Straszer, whereby "chapter" will be deleted and "branch" inserted in referring to the local branch of the American Red Cross, and that a copy be forwarded to Mrs. R. R. Smith, Chairman, Torrance Branch American Red Cross.

Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 341

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
 ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
 TURNING ON OR RECONNECTING GAS SERVICES
 ON PREMISES WITHIN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 341 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 341 be adopted for first reading. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell read a communication from Fire Chief McMaster, in which Chief McMaster called attention to the hazard which exists due to narrowness of Amapola Avenue, stating that, in the event of a fire, it would be impossible to get the fire apparatus and equipment through the street when automobiles parked on both sides of the street. Councilman Powell stated that this is a recognized hazard, and added that he felt widening of the narrow streets in the City should be one of the major projects for consideration in Post-War Planning.

Councilman Powell read a communication from Mr. Walter Silence, Fireman, representing the Torrance Fire Department, calling attention to the fact that a recent letter requesting that the salaries of fire department personnel be raised to the same scale as is paid police department personnel had been referred to the Council for action, but that no action has been taken to date. He requested that the City Council consider this matter and render a decision.

Councilman Powell moved that the request that salaries of fire department personnel be increased to conform with salaries being paid police department personnel be referred to the Council for consideration, a report and decision to be given at the next regular Council meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci moved that Mr. R. P. Slonecker of Walteria be appointed to serve as a member of the Civil Service Board functioning under Ordinance No. 326 to fill the vacancy created by expiration of the term of Robert B. Roberts, Mr. Slonecker's term to begin immediately. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. J. W. Crowther be appointed to serve as a member of the three-man Civil Service Board functioning under Ordinance No. 249 (Civil Service Ordinance pertaining to Police and Fire Department Personnel) to fill the vacancy created by resignation of Mr. Robert B. Roberts, Mr. Crowther's term to begin immediately. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci announced that he had received a copy of Ordinance No. 1006 of the City of Huntington Park, the license ordinance, and plans to study it thoroughly.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$450.00, plus tax, be made for road materials for Plaza del

Amo from Abalone Avenue to Border Avenue. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire announced that materials will be made available for the above-mentioned job, inasmuch as it has been declared a defense job.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$75.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of materials for concrete gutter across Cabrillo Avenue at 220th Street. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$66.00, plus tax, be made for one thousand (1000) City Maps for distribution. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell questioned advisability of distributing maps of the City during war time, but was assured by Engineer Jain that the maps indicate no buildings or military installations.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the temporary employment of Willis Tracy as a Power Equipment Operator at a salary of \$155.00 per month, effective January 18, 1943, be authorized. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the temporary employment of R. M. Sperry as a Mechanic's Helper at the City Garage, at a salary of \$145.00 per month, effective February 1, 1943, be authorized. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the temporary employment of Richard Ross as a Mechanic's Helper at the City Garage, at a salary of \$145.00 per month, effective January 18, 1943, be authorized. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$75.00, plus tax, be made for parts to rebuild the motor in No. 105 Bus. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that Dale Riley, Superintendent of the Recreation Department, be granted his two weeks 1943 vacation period at this time, it being necessary for Mr. Riley to enter the hospital for surgery. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire presented and read a proposal from Hans Wallner, Architect, in which Mr. Wallner agreed to render certain professional services as follows:

- (a) Prepare designs and sketches of residential structures complying with current War Production Board Defense Housing Standards and in accordance with F.H.A. minimum construction requirements.
- (b) Prepare short form F.H.A. specifications, construction details, complete working plans and furnish computations of materials required for Priority Division of W.P.B.

A schedule of fees was embodied in the proposal.

Mayor McGuire moved that the Mayor be authorized to enter into an agreement with Hans Wallner, Architect, for professional services as quoted by Mr. Wallner in the proposal read by Mayor McGuire.

A lengthy period of discussion followed, at which time all terms of the proposal were discussed in detail, with particular emphasis on the type of structure most adaptable to the present needs of the City in its program to provide housing for industrial war workers. It was decided to agree upon this particular point at an informal meeting, possibly Friday, January 29, 1943 at 4:45 P.M.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of \$650.00 be made for engaging the professional services of Hans Wallner, Architect, to prepare designs and sketches of residential structures complying with current War Production Board Defense Housing Standards and in accordance with F.H.A. Minimum construction requirements, and for preparing short form F.H.A. specifications, construction details, complete working plans and to furnish computations of materials required for Priority Division of W.P.B., City Council to agree upon the type of structure most adaptable to present needs of the City in its program to provide housing for industrial war workers; the Mayor to be authorized to sign the agreement between the City of Torrance and Mr. Wallner for the above services. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain was instructed to contact Mr. Wallner regarding this matter.

Engineer Jain requested that the Council establish a basic charge, or fee, for the plans, advising that he will be receiving inquiries in the office of the City Engineer from people who will expect information as to cost to them for blueprints and specifications of the plans. Councilman Babcock said he was under the impression a fee of \$15.00 would be charged for a set of blueprints.

Engineer Jain advised that Mr. Wallner expects to complete the plans in approximately ten days, which will enable Mr. Jain to present them at the next regular meeting, at which time the above-mentioned fee can be established.

Councilman Babcock expressed the desire to meet with Mr. Wallner and discuss this matter at length. No definite date was agreed upon, but Friday, January 29, 1943, 4:45 P.M. was mentioned as a suitable date.

The matter of a Boarding home for wards of the Juvenile Court being conducted in North Torrance was brought up at this time. Mr. Palmer, who originally registered the complaint, declared that the house formerly used as the boarding home has been vacated, and that the matter has been satisfactorily disposed of. He expressed appreciation for aid rendered by the City Council in this matter.

Engineer Jain reported that, being short of labor in the Street Department, the job of alley cleaning is getting out of hand, suggesting that the condition be remedied by picking up refuse only in the alleys (where houses are served by alleys,) and refusing to pick up refuse deposited in the gutters in the front of the houses. He suggested that notices to this effect be posted. He pointed out that this did not mean street accumulation would not be picked up from the gutters, but included rubbish which is commonly placed in alleys for pick up, such as tree branches, lawn trimmings, and other refuse.

Councilman Cucci moved that, due to a labor shortage, the work of the Street Department be facilitated by picking up refuse only in alleys (where houses are served by alleys,) and sending notices to this effect to the public, informing that no refuse deposited in the gutters in front of the houses will be picked up except in cases where houses are not served by alleys.

Councilman Powell stated that he is of the impression there is an old ordinance to this effect. Chief Stroh substantiated Mr. Powell's remarks.

Mayor McGuire suggested that, in addition to sending notices regarding this matter, an advertisement be inserted in the newspaper advising of the discontinuance of the practice of picking up refuse from the gutters.

Attorney McCall suggested enforcement of the old ordinance, and that it be mentioned on the notice.

Councilman Powell suggested that the City Engineer be authorized to send post card notices to occupants of all houses of the City of Torrance, advising that the practice heretofore followed of picking up refuse, except street accumulation, from the gutters in front of houses will be discontinued and that refuse must be placed in alleys for pick-up by City trucks. Councilman Cucci incorporated Councilman Powell's suggestion in his motion. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire instructed Attorney McCall to draft an ordinance pertaining to the above matter if it is found that none is in existence.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Tom Babbitt inquired as to regulations for keeping livestock. He was informed that the City is governed by County regulations in this matter, the Council having recently repealed City of Torrance ordinance regarding livestock. Mr. Palmer from North Torrance participated in the discussion which followed, at which time Chief Stroh advised that his department had received several complaints about persons keeping livestock, but, when investigation disclosed that County regulations were being complied with, no action could be taken.

Engineer Jain stated that the proprietor of the frozen food locker in the vicinity of Western Avenue and 182nd Street has requested a permit to slaughter livestock on the premises of the locker. At present, Engineer Jain said, he cuts and stores the meat for patrons of the frozen food lockers, the meat being brought to him already slaughtered. He said the man had pointed out that, inasmuch as there is no law prohibiting an owner from slaughtering his own livestock, there should be no objection to doing it on the premises of the locker.

Chief Stroh advised that there is some law to the effect that, if the person is slaughtering the stock for his own consumption, he may be allowed to slaughter if he will sign a statement to the effect that it is intended for his own consumption.

Engineer Jain added that, in cases where all or a part of the meat is to be sold, an inspector must be present during the process of slaughtering. Brief discussion, participated in by Attorney McCall

and Mr. Palmer regarding various laws relating to slaughtering livestock, followed. Chief Stroh mentioned that an inspector from the Office of Price Administration had recently checked the quantity of meat stored in frozen food lockers, having checked the locker mentioned by Mr. Jain in the course of his work.

Councilman Babcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:50 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Cucci, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance